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"THE QUADRILOGY" EPISODE IV

Anno XXIII - LUGLIO 2002 - Sped. A.P. 45% art.2 c.20/B L.662/96 - CMP Verona www.disney.it *Italy only

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AFFARI DI FAMIGLIA

AFFARI DI FAMIGLIA
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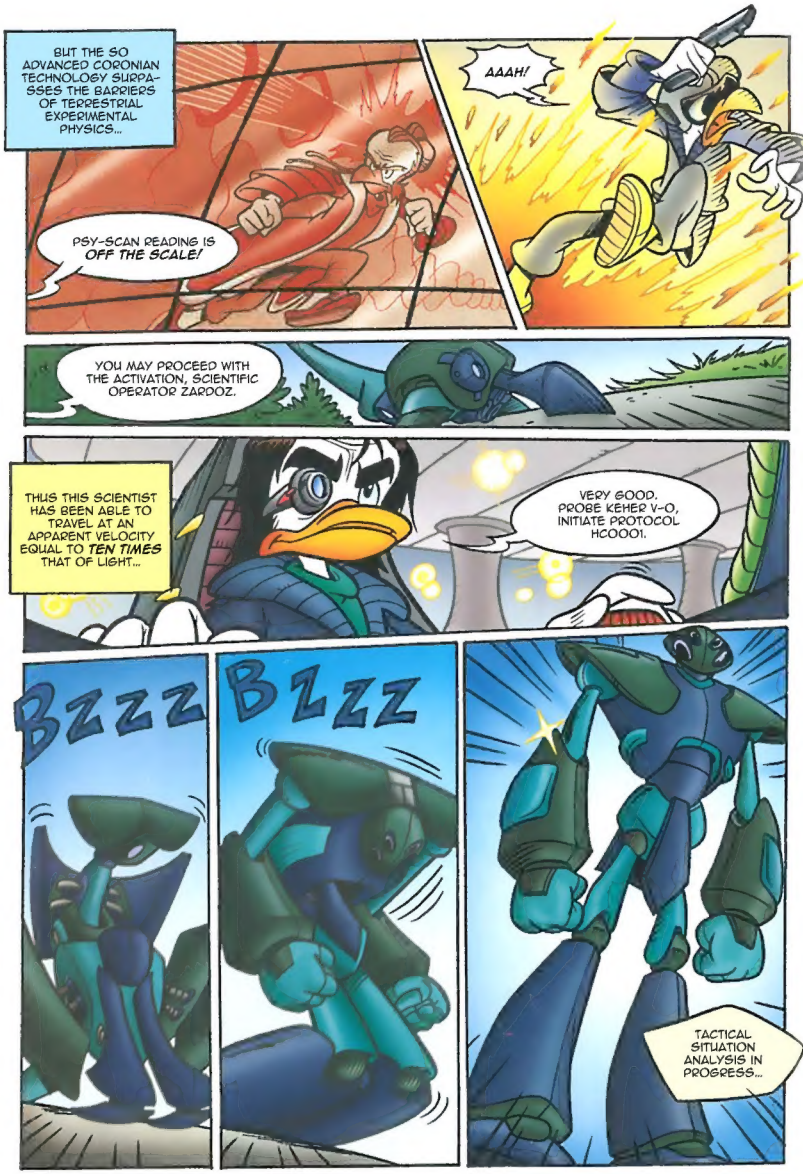
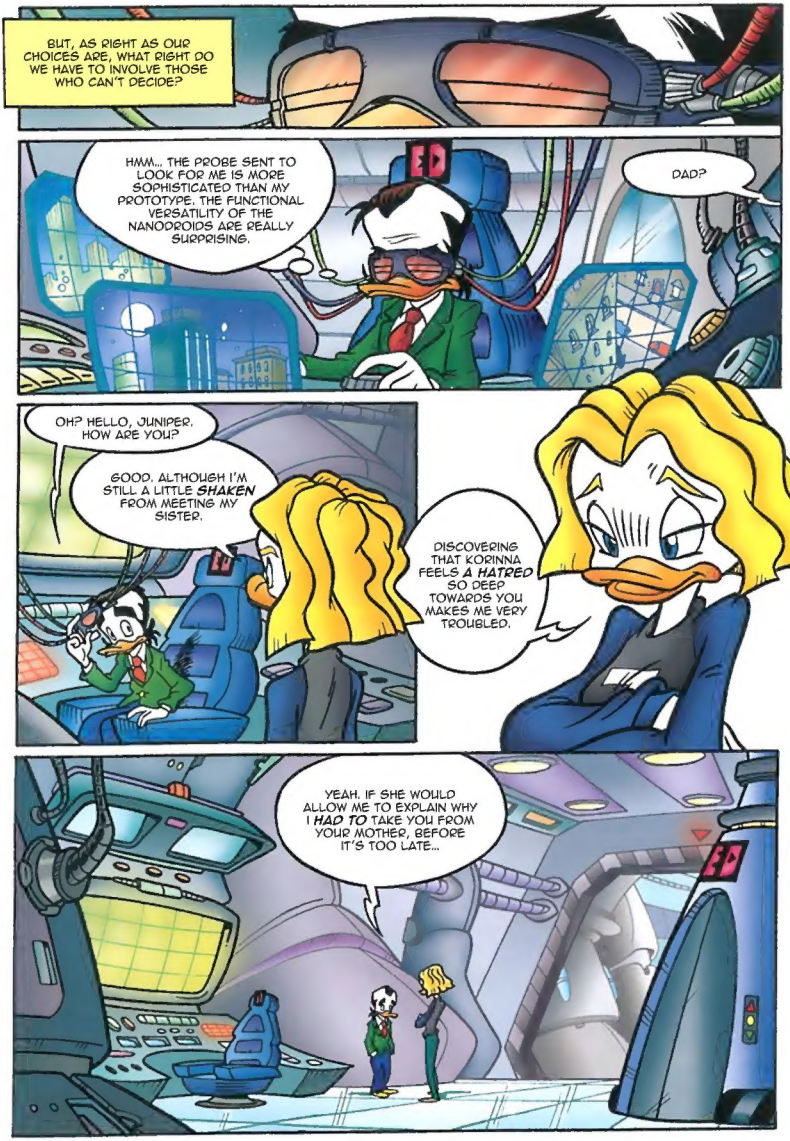
THE PLANET CORONA IS FORTY-SIX PARSECS AWAY FROM EARTH...
... THUS IT WILL TAKE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS FOR THESE IMAGES TO REACH OUR PLANET...
THIS IS REEZOR SQUAD, WE NEED REINFORCEMENTS!

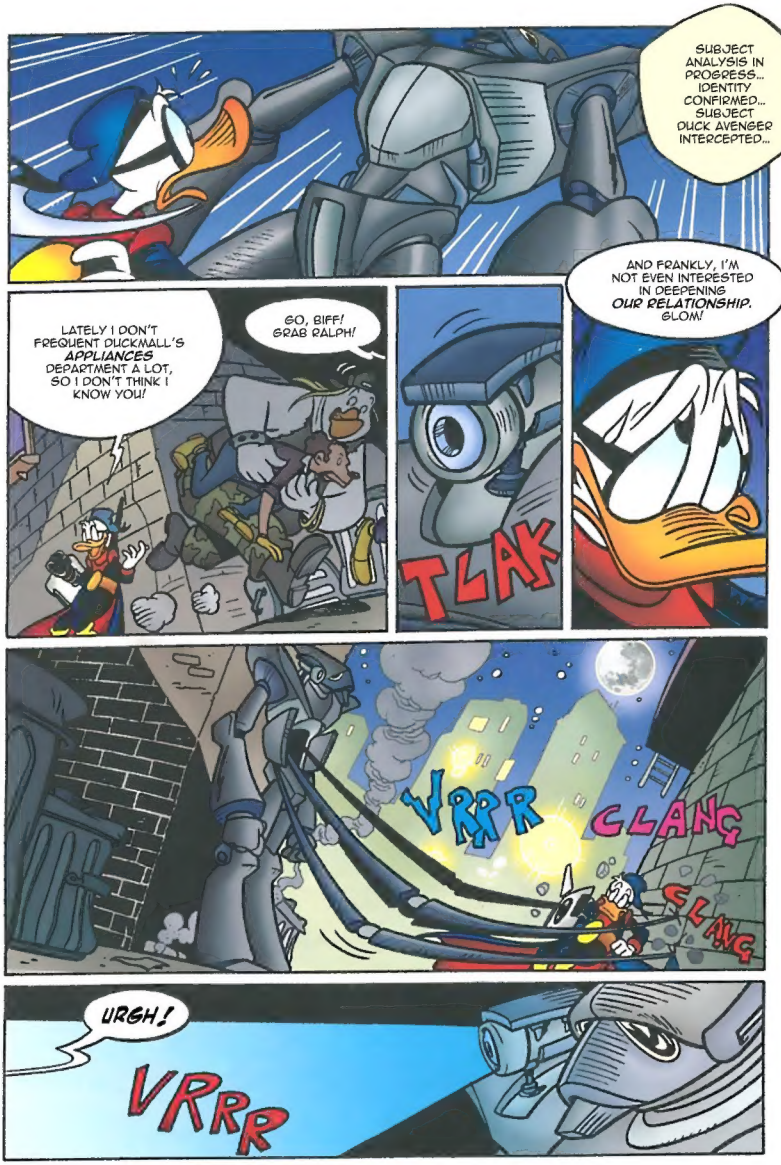

BUT THE SO ADVANCED CORONIAN TECHNOLOGY SURPASSES THE BARRIERS OF TERRESTRIAL EXPERIMENTAL PHYSICS...
PSY-SCAN READING IS *OFF THE SCALE!*
AAAH!
YOU MAY PROCEED WITH THE ACTIVATION, SCIENTIFIC OPERATOR ZARDOZ.
THUS THIS SCIENTIST HAS BEEN ABLE TO TRAVEL AT AN APPARENT VELOCITY EQUAL TO ***TEN TIMES*** THAT OF LIGHT...
VERY GOOD. PROBE KEHER V-O, INITIATE PROTOCOL HC0001.
BZZZ
BZZZ
TACTICAL SITUATION ANALYSIS IN PROGRESS...

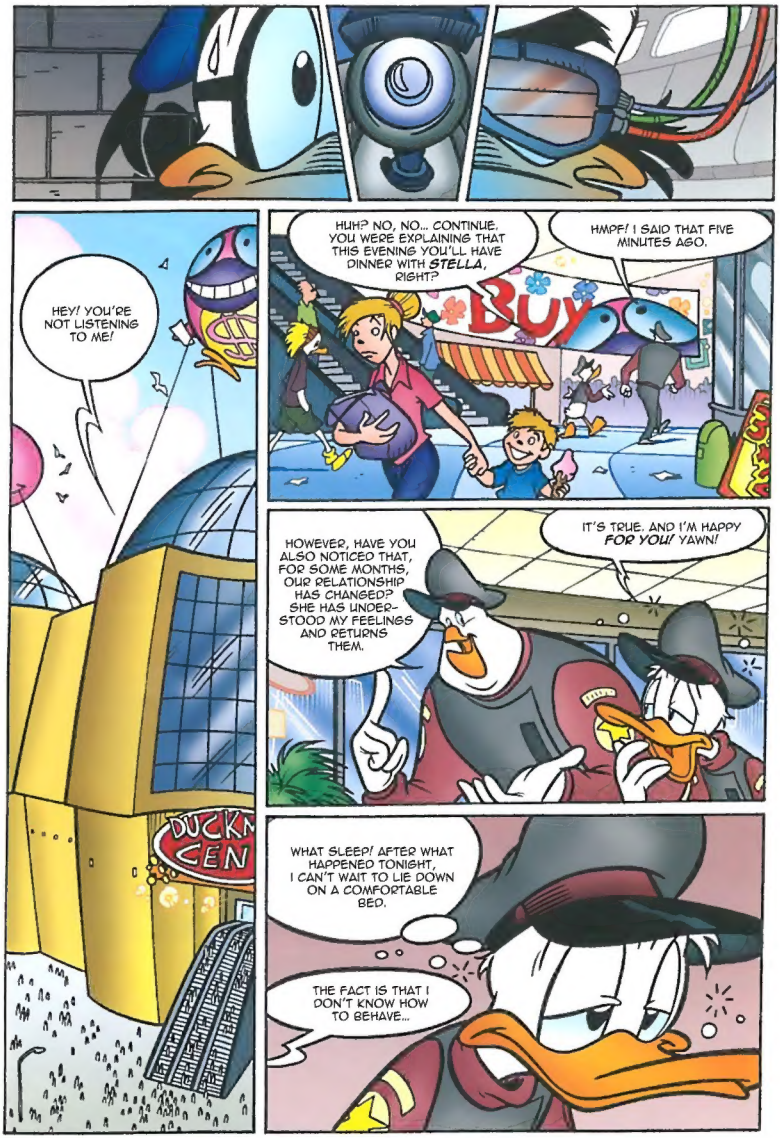
VOOOSH
TODAY HE LIVES IN DUCKBURG, ON EARTH AND GOES BY HIS FULL NAME, EVERETT DUCKLAIR...
INTERCEPT AND NEUTRALIZE HOSTILE SUBJECT.
REGISTRATION OF PSY-WAVE LAYOUT OF HOSTILE PERFORMED...
SET UP SCHEME OF INVERSE PHASE. FIRE!
PSY-SCAN READING IS NEGATIVE. THE TELEPATHIC CAPACITY OF THE HOSTILE SUBJECT HAS BEEN CANCELLED.
HIS WAS A JOURNEY TOWARDS FREEDOM, TO ESCAPE THE OPPRESSIVE SOCIETY HE HAD HELPED CREATE...
CONGRATULATIONS, TECNARCA ZAREFEEX! THE TESTING OF THE PROBE WAS A SUCCESS!
PARTLY THANKS TO YOU, ZARDOZ.


BUT, AS RIGHT AS OUR CHOICES ARE, WHAT RIGHT DO WE HAVE TO INVOLVE THOSE WHO CAN'T DECIDE?
HMM... THE PROBE SENT TO LOOK FOR ME IS MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN MY PROTOTYPE. THE FUNCTIONAL VERSATILITY OF THE NANODROIDS ARE REALLY SURPRISING.
DAD?
OH? HELLO, JUNIPER. HOW ARE YOU?
GOOD. ALTHOUGH I'M STILL A LITTLE SHAKEN FROM MEETING MY SISTER.
DISCOVERING THAT KORINNA FEELS A HATRED SO DEEP TOWARDS YOU MAKES ME VERY TROUBLED.
YEAH. IF SHE WOULD ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN WHY I HAD TO TAKE YOU FROM YOUR MOTHER, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...

HURRY UP! WE DON'T HAVE ALL NIGHT!
HEY, RALPH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHY'S HE JUST STANDING THERE, MOTIONLESS?
BECAUSE HE'S BEEN HIT BY A BRADIONIC PARALYZER RAY. ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
DUCK AVENGER! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO OUR COMRADE?
I ALREADY TOLD YOU. IF YOU HAD STUDIED PHYSICS, INSTEAD OF DEVOTING YOURSELF TO CRIME, YOU'D KNOW THAT IT'S A DEVICE THAT SUSPENDS THE SUBJECTIVE TIME OF THOSE WHO ARE HIT, LEAVING THEM IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION.
AND WHEN I'M DONE WITH YOU YOU'LL NEED REANIMATION! GRRR!

ONE WAY
KRAAAK
UFF! WE'RE AT IT AGAIN. HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THAT THE BIGGER THE BAD GUYS ARE...
... THE MORE THEY HURT YOU!
WOW! WE TWO MAKE A PRETTY GOOD COMEDY DUO. WHY DON'T WE PERFORM AT THE FEDERAL PENITENTIARY?
BZZZZZ
I'LL COME SEE YOU WHEN I HAVE TIME AND WE'LL TRY OUT SOME JOKES. SATISFIED?
WELL, AREN'T YOU GONNA SAY ANYTHING ANYMORE? HAVE YOU ALREADY RUN OUT OF INSPIRATION?
HOW DISAPPOI... ULP!
BZZZ


SUBJECT ANALYSIS IN PROGRESS... IDENTITY CONFIRMED... SUBJECT DUCK AVENGER INTERCEPTED...
AND FRANKLY, I'M NOT EVEN INTERESTED IN DEEPENING *OUR RELATIONSHIP.* GLOM!
TLAK
GO, BIFF! GRAB RALPH!
LATELY I DON'T FREQUENT DUCKMALL'S *APPLIANCES* DEPARTMENT A LOT, SO I DON'T THINK I KNOW YOU!
VRRR
CLANG
CLANG
URGH!
VRRR


HEY! YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME!
HUH? NO, NO... CONTINUE. YOU WERE EXPLAINING THAT THIS EVENING YOU'LL HAVE DINNER WITH *STELLA*, RIGHT?
HMPF! I SAID THAT FIVE MINUTES AGO.
BUY
HOWEVER, HAVE YOU ALSO NOTICED THAT, FOR SOME MONTHS, OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS CHANGED? SHE HAS UNDERSTOOD MY FEELINGS AND RETURNS THEM.
IT'S TRUE. AND I'M HAPPY *FOR YOU!* YAWN!
WHAT SLEEP! AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TONIGHT, I CAN'T WAIT TO LIE DOWN ON A COMFORTABLE BED.
THE FACT IS THAT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO BEHAVE...

I'D GLADLY INVENT AN EXCUSE TO AVOID THE FIRST SHIFT, BUT IT'S NOT THE TIME TO PUT MYSELF IN A BAD LIGHT, SINCE WE DON'T YET KNOW WHO'LL TAKE BLOOM'S PLACE.
I THOUGHT I MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE DINNER TO PROPOSE TO HER AND...
BABY
... I WAS WONDERING IF I SHOULD GIVE HER THE RING I BOUGHT THREE YEARS AGO, BUT NEVER HAD THE COURAGE TO GIVE HER.
I SHUDDER TO THINK THAT UNPLEASANT FITZROY COULD BECOME MY NEW BOSS.
YOU THINK IT MIGHT BE OUTMODED?
I'D RATHER RETURN TO POLISH COINS FOR UNCLE SCROOGE.
WHAT? DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT I SAID?
DON'T PRETEND YOU DON'T KNOW!
LOCKER ROOM STARCORP

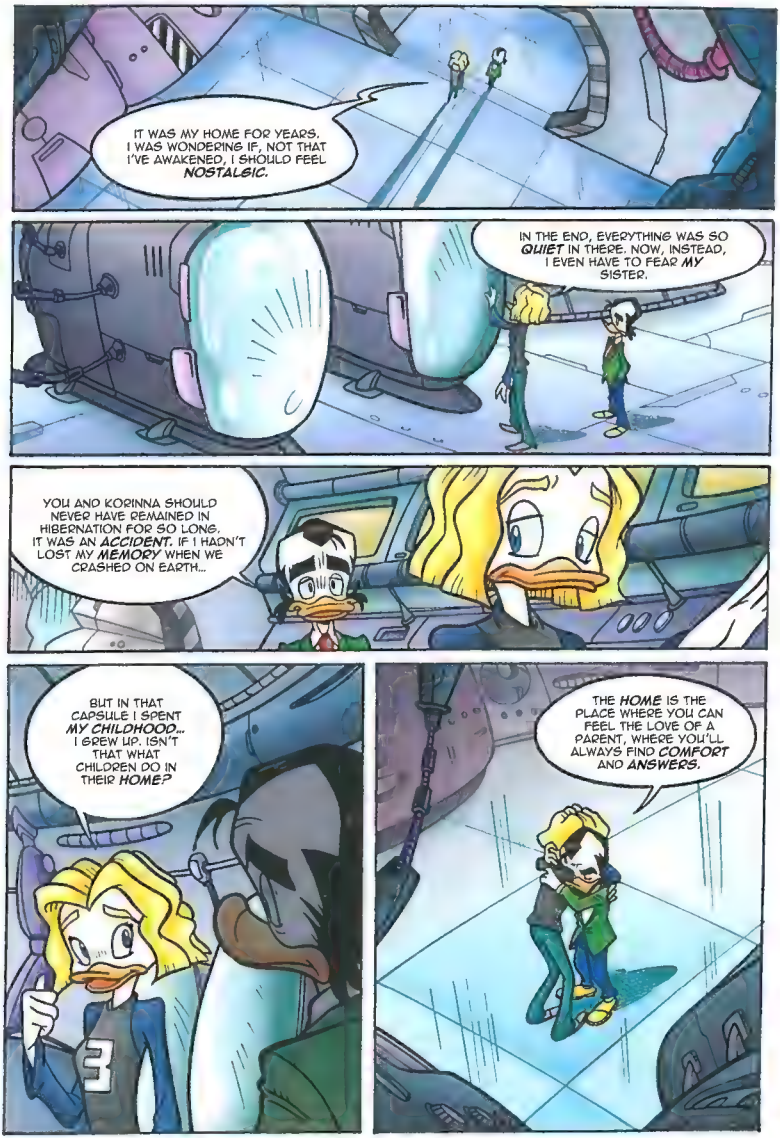
WHERE'S MY AUTOGRAPHED PHOTO OF BERNIE GILLIAMS? IT'S ALWAYS BEEN HANGING HERE.
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON?
WELL... WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW FROM ME?
I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU TWO. WHERE HAVE YOU HIDDEN THE PHOTO OF THE GREAT BERNIE? I DON'T LIKE THESE PRANKS.
EHEM... FITZROY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
I'M SAYING THAT THE PHOTO OF THE GREATEST BASEBALL CHAMPION OF ALL TIME IS GONE. I KEPT IT IN MY LOCKER AND ISN'T IT SO THAT YOU'VE ALWAYS ENVIED IT?
HUH?
HE'S BEEN SCREAMING LIKE THIS ALL MORNING...
I WANT TO KNOW WHO STOLE IIIT!
HMM...

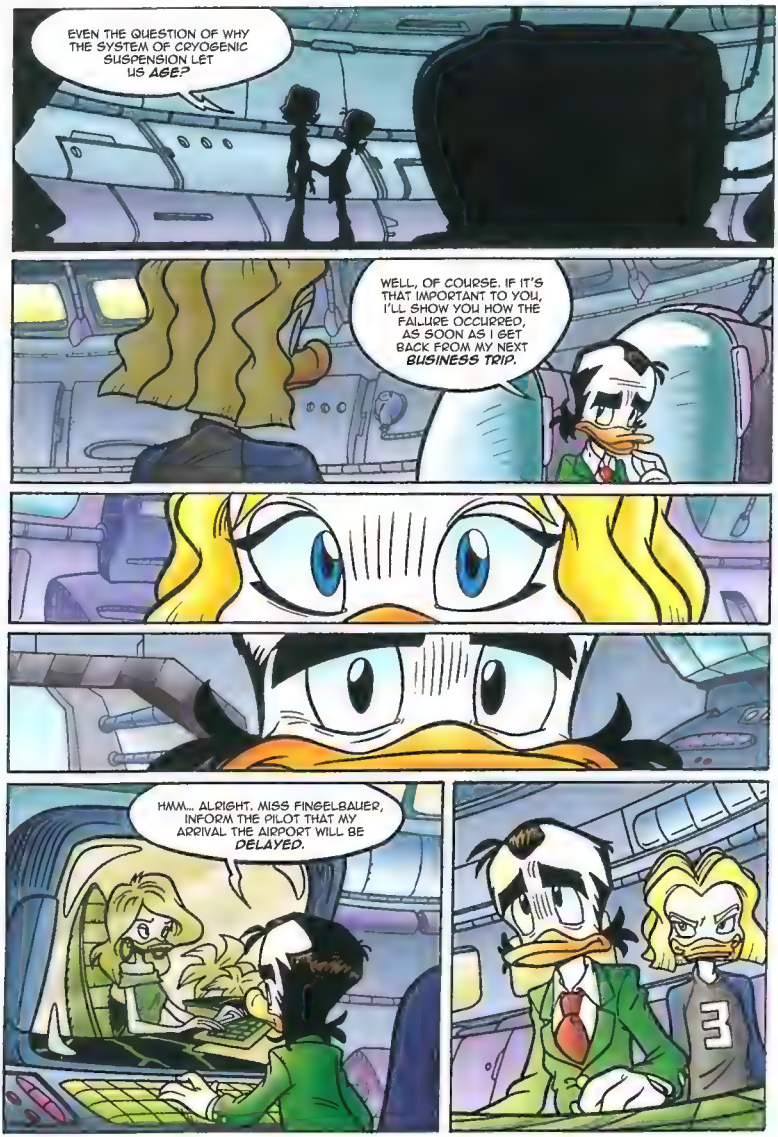
UNFORTUNATELY THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE STALLED, SIR.
THE RECENT CRISIS OF DUCKLAIR CHEMICALS HAS LED TO A DECLINE OF POPULARITY SUFFICIENT TO CONSIDER IT INOPPORTUNE TO SIGN THE CONTRACT.
I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION, ANYMORE. DON'T WORRY. YOUR WORK HAS PAVED THE WAY FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE TRANSACTION.
NOW LET HUMAN FACTORS OF NONCOMMERCIAL NATURE COME INTO PLAY. I'LL JOIN YOU SOON.
HMM... I'D PREFER NOT TO LEAVE DUCKBURG, WHILE KORINNA'S STILL AT LARGE.

WELL, FITZROY? YOU READY TO START OUR SHIFT?
I'M NOT MOVING FROM HERE UNTIL I GET MY PHOTO BACK.
DON'T JOKE. MOVE IT.
AND WHO'S JOKING? SINCE YOU CARE SO MUCH TO PLAY POLICEWOMAN, WHY DON'T YOU INVESTIGATE THIS THEFT? FINALLY YOU MAY ARREST A THIEF.
HMPF!
THAT'S ENOUGH. I'M TIRED OF BEING INSULTED. HOWEVER, IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A THIEF, LOOK AT SOMEONE ELSE.
WHAT ARE YOU INSINUATING?
NOTHING! BUT, LOOK AT IT THIS WAY, SINCE WE NO LONGER HAVE NIGHT SHIFTS TOGETHER, MY CHEESE SANDWICHES NO LONGER DISAPPEAR.

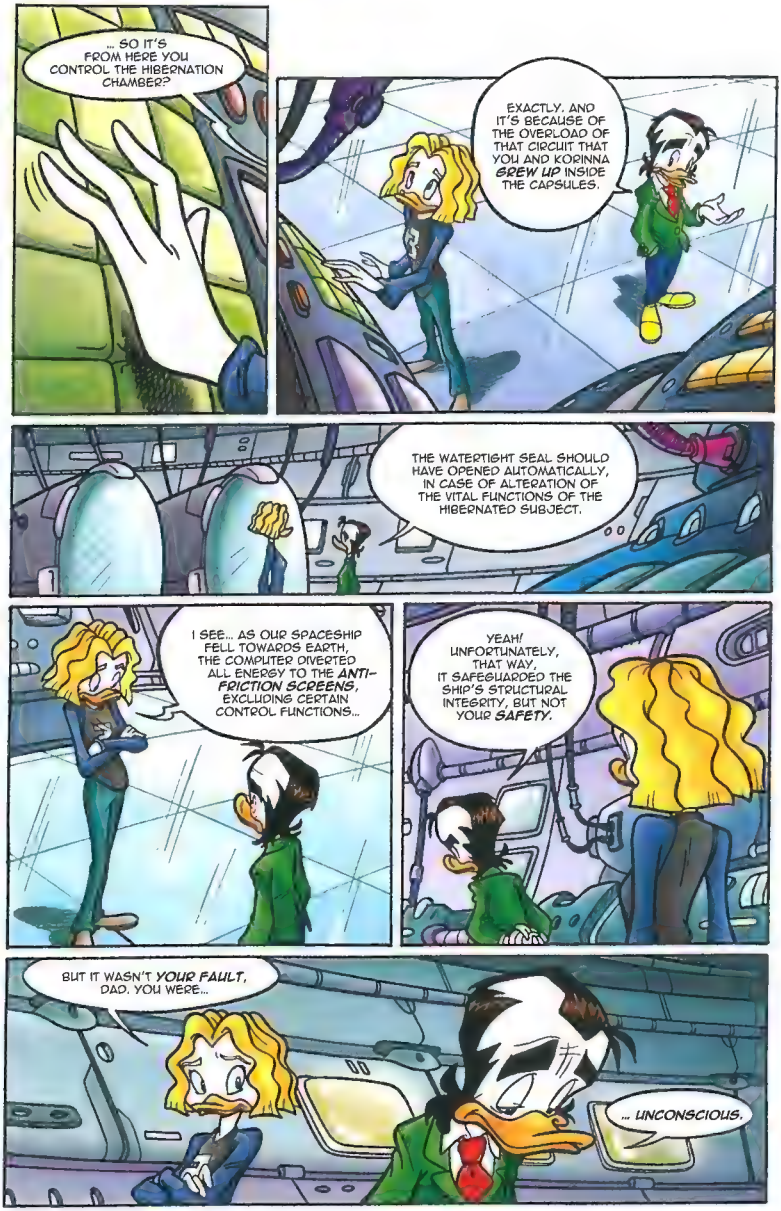
HEY! I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE HERE WHO APPRECIATED GOOD FOOD.
STAFF ONLY
ARE YOU PERHAPS ACCUSING RUPERT, PINHEAD?
RELAX, TEMPEST. THERE'S NO NEED TO ARGUE.
IT'S NOT ME WHO STARTED IT.
LISTEN, FITZROY... IF YOU EXPLAIN HOW THIS PHOTO LOOKS, WE'LL HELP YOU LOOK FOR IT.
IT'S USELESS TO PRETEND YOU DON'T REMEMBER. GIVE IT BACK TO ME RIGHT NOW, THIEVES!
HMM...

ED
JUNIPER?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? IT'S DANGEROUS TO ENTER *WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION.*
REALLY? I THOUGHT THE SECURITY DEVICES WERE PROGRAMMED TO RECOGNIZE ME. IN THE END, I'M *YOUR DAUGHTER.*
YOU'RE RIGHT, BUT YOU DIDN'T ANSWER MY QUESTION. *WHY* DID YOU COME HERE?
I WANTED TO SEE THE *CRYOGENIC* CAPSULES.

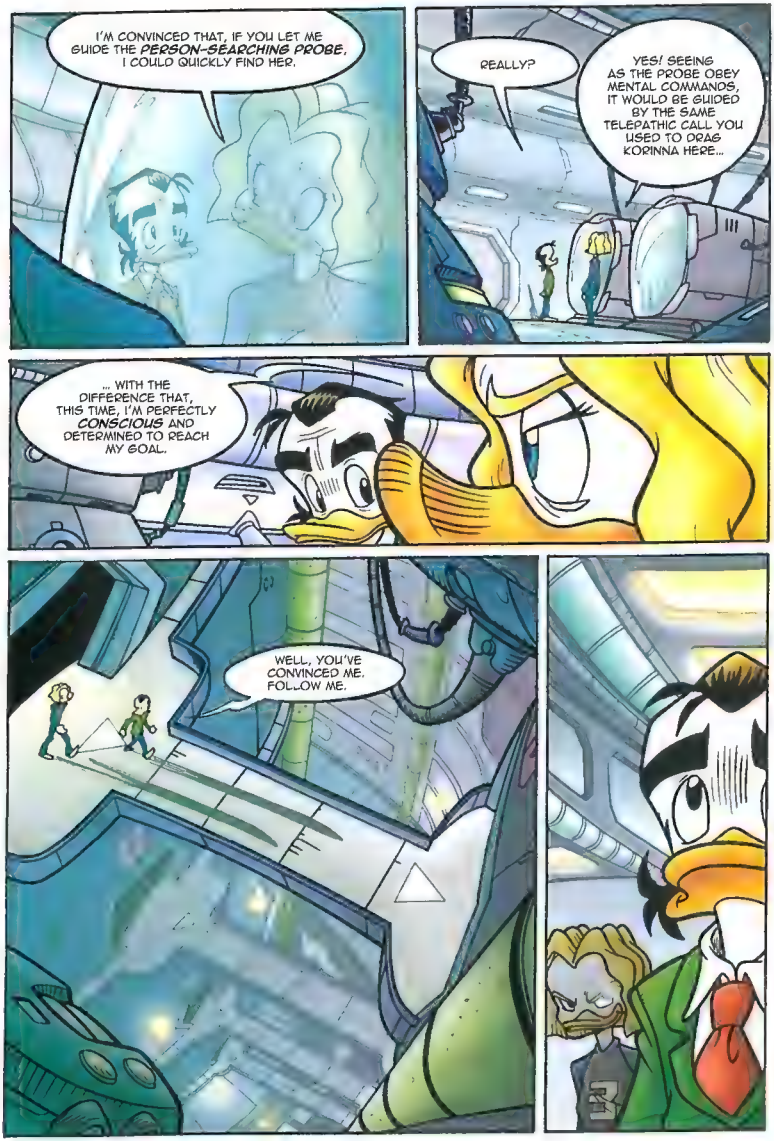

IT WAS MY HOME FOR YEARS. I WAS WONDERING IF, NOT THAT I'VE AWAKENED, I SHOULD FEEL NOSTALGIC.
IN THE END, EVERYTHING WAS SO QUIET IN THERE. NOW, INSTEAD, I EVEN HAVE TO FEAR MY SISTER.
YOU AND KORINNA SHOULD NEVER HAVE REMAINED IN HIBERNATION FOR SO LONG. IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. IF I HADN'T LOST MY MEMORY WHEN WE CRASHED ON EARTH...
BUT IN THAT CAPSULE I SPENT MY CHILDHOOD... I GREW UP. ISN'T THAT WHAT CHILDREN DO IN THEIR HOME?
THE HOME IS THE PLACE WHERE YOU CAN FEEL THE LOVE OF A PARENT, WHERE YOU'LL ALWAYS FIND COMFORT AND ANSWERS.


EVEN THE QUESTION OF WHY THE SYSTEM OF CRYOGENIC SUSPENSION LET US *AGE.?*
WELL, OF COURSE. IF IT'S THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU, I'LL SHOW YOU HOW THE FAILURE OCCURRED, AS SOON AS I GET BACK FROM MY NEXT *BUSINESS TRIP.*
HMM... ALRIGHT. MISS FINGELBAUER, INFORM THE PILOT THAT MY ARRIVAL THE AIRPORT WILL BE *DELAYED.*
3

WELCOME ABOARD, MR. DUCKLAIR.
WE CAN TAKE OFF AS SOON AS YOU GIVE ME THE ORDER.
VERY GOOD, THEN... FASTEN YOUR SAFETY BELT!


... SO IT'S FROM HERE YOU CONTROL THE HIBERNATION CHAMBER?
EXACTLY. AND IT'S BECAUSE OF THE OVERLOAD OF THAT CIRCUIT THAT YOU AND KORINNA GREW UP INSIDE THE CAPSULES.
THE WATERTIGHT SEAL SHOULD HAVE OPENED AUTOMATICALLY, IN CASE OF ALTERATION OF THE VITAL FUNCTIONS OF THE HIBERNATED SUBJECT.
I SEE... AS OUR SPACESHIP FELL TOWARDS EARTH, THE COMPUTER DIVERTED ALL ENERGY TO THE ANTI-FRICTION SCREENS, EXCLUDING CERTAIN CONTROL FUNCTIONS...
YEAH! UNFORTUNATELY, THAT WAY, IT SAFEGUARDED THE SHIP'S STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY, BUT NOT YOUR SAFETY.
BUT IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT, DAD. YOU WERE...
... UNCONSCIOUS.

WHO KNOWS... PERHAPS IF I WERE TO EXPLAIN IT TO HER, KORINNA WOULD ALSO UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THE SITUATION.
FOR NOW I JUST NEED TO FIND HER AND MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T GET INTO WORSE TROUBLE THAN SHE'S ALREADY CAUSED.
WHY DON'T YOU LET ME TRY?
HUH?
"MONTHS AGO YOU TRIED TO USE OUR TELEPATHIC LINK TO LEAD KORINNA TO DUCKLAIR MANOR, BUT I WASN'T FULLY CONSCIOUS AND COULDN'T CONTROL MY POWERS."
"MY SISTER WAS STILL CONFUSED BY HER SUDDEN AWAKENING AND MUST HAVE INTERPRETED YOUR ATTEMPT TO BRING HER BACK HOME AS A TRAP."


I'M CONVINCED THAT, IF YOU LET ME GUIDE THE PERSON-SEARCHING PROBE, I COULD QUICKLY FIND HER.
REALLY?
YES! SEEING AS THE PROBE OBEY MENTAL COMMANDS, IT WOULD BE GUIDED BY THE SAME TELEPATHIC CALL YOU USED TO DRAG KORINNA HERE...
... WITH THE DIFFERENCE THAT, THIS TIME, I'M PERFECTLY CONSCIOUS AND DETERMINED TO REACH MY GOAL.
WELL, YOU'VE CONVINCED ME. FOLLOW ME.

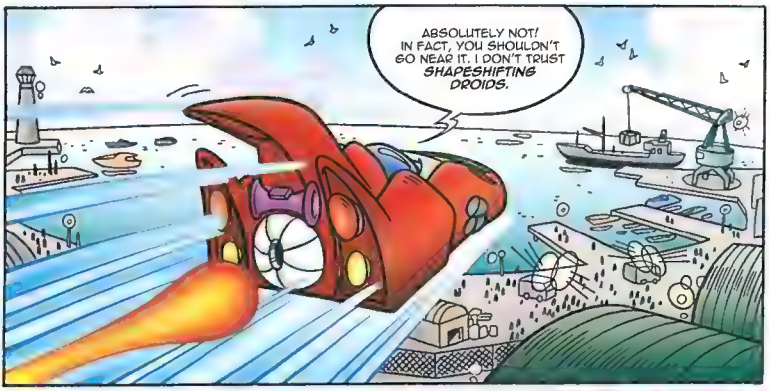
S.O.S.! THIS IS FLIGHT ED 231... FIRE ONBOARD! S.O.S.!
MR. DUCKLAIR, I CAN'T REACH YOU! JUMP OUT FROM THE BACK DOOR! QUICKLY!
SPLASH

IN SHORT, YOU LOST A PHOTOGRAPH. IT'S NOT A TRAGEDY!
IT'S NOT BEEN LOST, IT'S BEEN STOLEN.
THAT'S ENOUGH! IF YOU ACCUSE US AGAIN YOU'LL SEE WHY MY FRIENDS CALL ME CONCRETE HANDS!
HEY! TURN ON THE TV. THERE'S INCREDIBLE NEWS!
... NOW COMES CONFIRMATION FROM THE COAST GUARD. THE PRIVATE JET OF BILLIONAIRE EVERETT DUCKLAIR CRASHED INTO THE SEA IN THE BAY OF DUCKBURG, A FEW MINUTES AFTER TAKEOFF.
NEWS

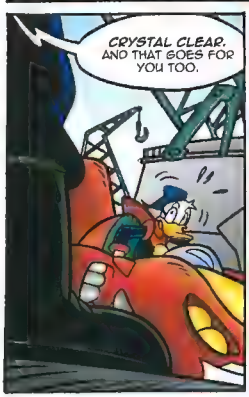
THE PILOT, WHO HAD JUMPED OUT WITH PARACHUTE, HAS JUST BEEN RESCUED. THE FIRST RUMORS SPEAK OF A SUDDEN FIRE IN THE AIRCRAFT...
GASP!
UNFORTUNATELY THERE ARE NO NEWS ON THE FATE OF DUCKBURG'S FINANCIAL MAGNATE...
HMM... THIS INCIDENT COULDN'T BE MORE UNTIMELY. I CAN'T STAND UP FROM SLEEP.
BUT, IF WHAT EVERETT PREDICTED IS HAPPENING, IT'S TIME FOR THE AVENGER TO ENTER INTO ACTION!
THAT'S ALL FOR NOW. WE'LL PROVIDE FURTHER DETAILS ON THE INCIDENT IN THE NEXT NEWS REPORT.
WELL, I'M GOING. I PREFER TO KEEP WATCHING THE NEWS IN AN ARMCHAIR.
YEAH... WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED! BUT, IF YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MY PHOTO, DON'T THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH IT.
I WON'T NEGLECT ANY LEADS, UNTIL THE TRUTH COMES TO LIGHT.
BRAVO, MASTIFF! NOW LET'S START OUR SHIFT, SEEING THAT WE'RE ALREAD LATE.

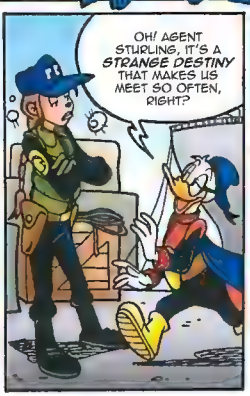
YAWN! LYO ASSURED ME THAT THIS CONCOCTION COULD EVEN WAKE UP A SUPERHERO WITH THE POWERS OF A RADIOACTIVE DORMOUSE, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE WORKING.
LYO TO AVENGER, DO YOU READ ME? THIS IS LYO, RESPOND!
HEY! THE VOLUME OF THE RECEPTION ISN'T INVERSELY PROPORTIONAL TO THE DISTANCE.
HUH?
SO YOU DON'T NEED TO YELL!

HMPF! LISTEN, I'M TRYING TO REPAIR ASTRONSMAN'S ASTRODIMENSIONAL TRANSDUCER. CAN I DISASSEMBLE THAT CONTRAPTION YOU BROUGHT HERE LAST NIGHT TO LOOK FOR SOME SPARE PARTS?


ABSOLUTELY NOT! IN FACT, YOU SHOULDN'T GO NEAR IT. I DON'T TRUST SHAPESHIFTING DROIDS.

SO STAY AWAY FROM OUR GUEST AND DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING. AM I CLEAR?
VOOOSH


CRYSTAL CLEAR. AND THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO.


OH! AGENT STURLING, IT'S A STRANGE DESTINY THAT MAKES US MEET SO OFTEN, RIGHT?

UNFORTUNATELY FATE ISN'T ALWAYS KIND TO ME.
SGRUNT!

THOUGH I MUST ADMIT... YOU HAVE GUTS! AFTER WHAT YOU AND CORMACK DID AT DUCKLAIR TOWER, SHOWING YOURSELF IS TRULY COURAGEOUS.
HEY, THAT TIME I WAS THE VICTIM.
TSK? AND WHAT DO YOU WANT NOW?
HEY! WHY IS THE DUCK AVENGER HERE? WHAT ARE YOU HIDING?
I CAN HELP IN THE INVESTIGATION. THE DUCKMOBILE'S EQUIPPED WITH AN UNDERWATER MODULE...
THEN OFFER IT TO SOMEONE MAKING A DOCUMENTARY ON UNDERWATER LIFE. WE ALREADY HAVE THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO RECOVER THE PLANE WRECK.
FBI
B
BUT I COULD SPEED UP THE PROCESS...
I ALREADY TOLD YOU: I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU AROUND HERE. GET LOST!
FBI
GRRR... OOOF!
OUCH! THIS WAY, PLEASE.
FBI
STURLING, I HEARD EVERYTHING! WHY DO YOU WANT TO WASTE TIME? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO COVER UP?
SOB!

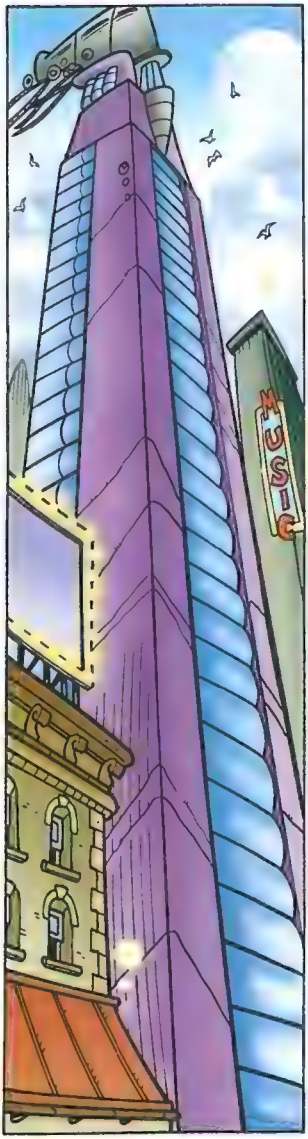
I'M TWISTING IN THE RAIN...
TOP MAN
COFF! COFF!
HMM... I NEED A HAT.

BAH! FORGET IT. I'M ALREADY *ELEGANT* ENOUGH.
?
Roger Lemmers
A STRONG BUG
BZZZ... RECOVERY TEAM TO STURLING...

WE'VE REACHED THE PLANE WRECK. WE'LL PROCEED WITH THE INSPECTION...
VERY GOOD, BARKLEY.
PBI
ARE YOU RECEIVING THE IMAGES?
AFFIRMATIVE.
SGRUNT! I WISH I COULD SAY THE SAME THING. I'M LUCKY IF I CAN PICK UP *EVERY FIFTH WORD.*
BZZZ... APPROACH... BZZZ... DOOR...

YOU'RE ONLY CAPABLE OF COMPLAINING. THE BUGS I PROVIDED YOU WERE PERSONALLY DESIGNED BY ASTRONSMAN AND CAN'T BE DETECTED BY MODERN SECURITY DEVICES.
MAYBE BECAUSE NO ONE THINKS SUCH ANTIQUES STILL EXIST!
HMPF!
STRANGE. I DON'T SEE TRACES OF THE FIRE.
THERE ARE NONE IN FACT. ON THIS PLANE THERE'S NOT EVEN A BURNT MATCH.

BZZZ... SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT... BZZZ... ACCORDING TO THE PILOT...
GOOD, AGENT STURLING. KEEP CHATTING.
... A SUDDEN FIRE, THAT BROKE OUT INSIDE THE PLANE, PREVENTED EVERETT DUCKLAIR FROM REACHING THE DOOR TO JUMP OUT WITH A PARACHUTE.
YET IT SEEMS THAT HE DION'T EVEN ATTEMOT TO SAVE HIMSELF. THE PARACHUTE IS STILL UNDER THE SEAT.
COMMANDER, CAN WE PROCEED WITH THE RECOVERY OF THE WRECK?
AFFIRMATIVE. MEANWHILE I'LL TRY TO INTERROGATE THE PILOT. WHERE WAS HE BROUGHT?
TO DUCKTOWN HOPE, MA'AM.
HURRAY! THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO KNOW.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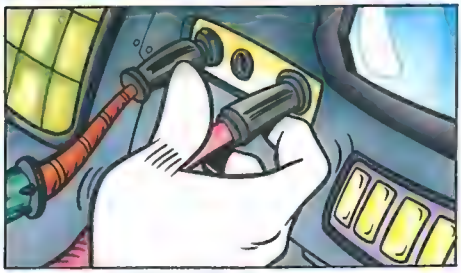

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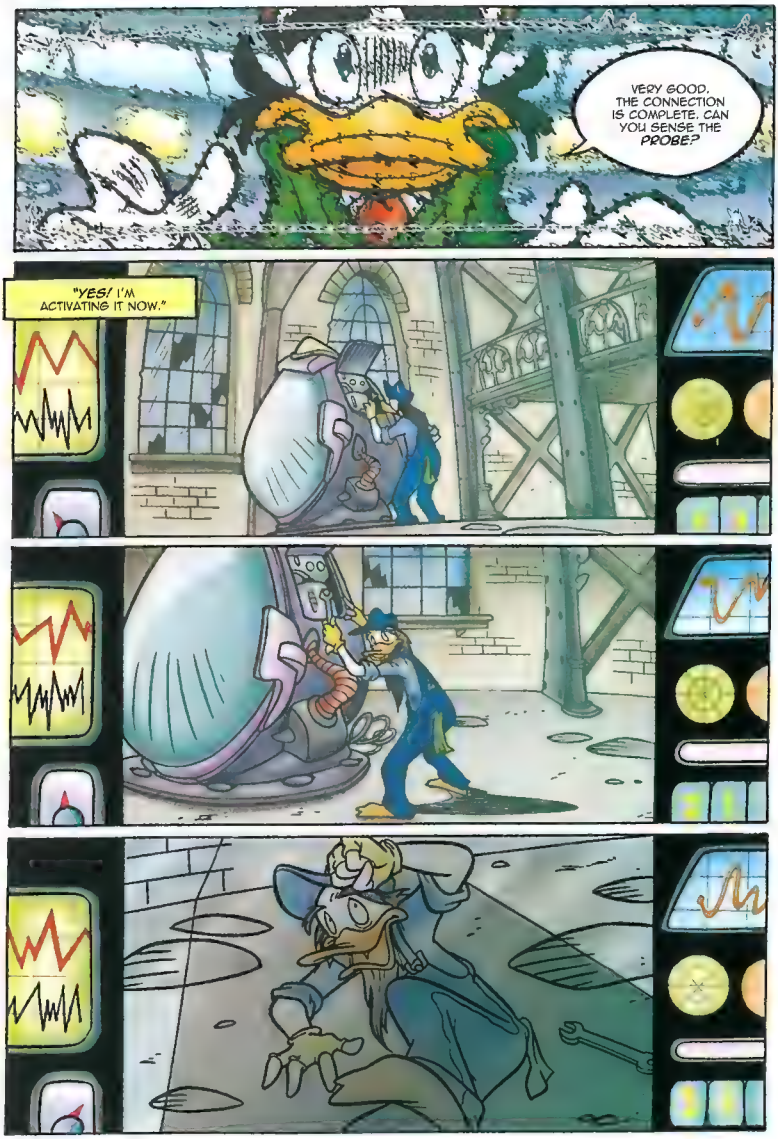
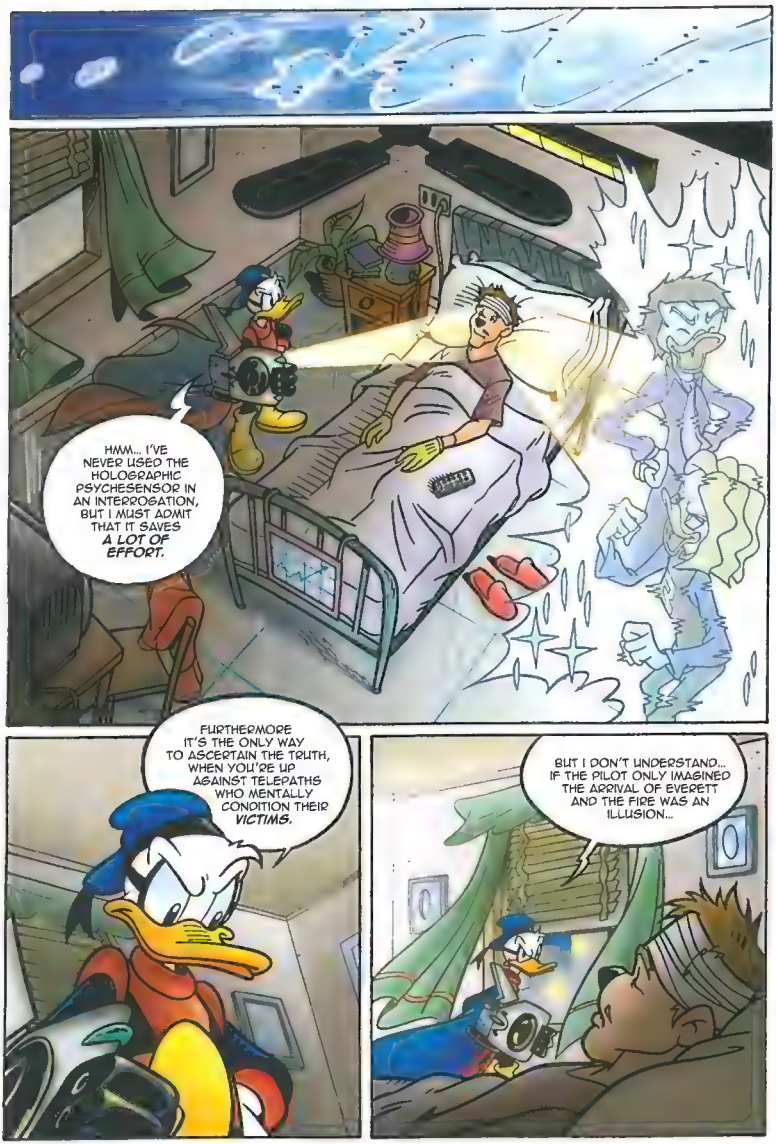
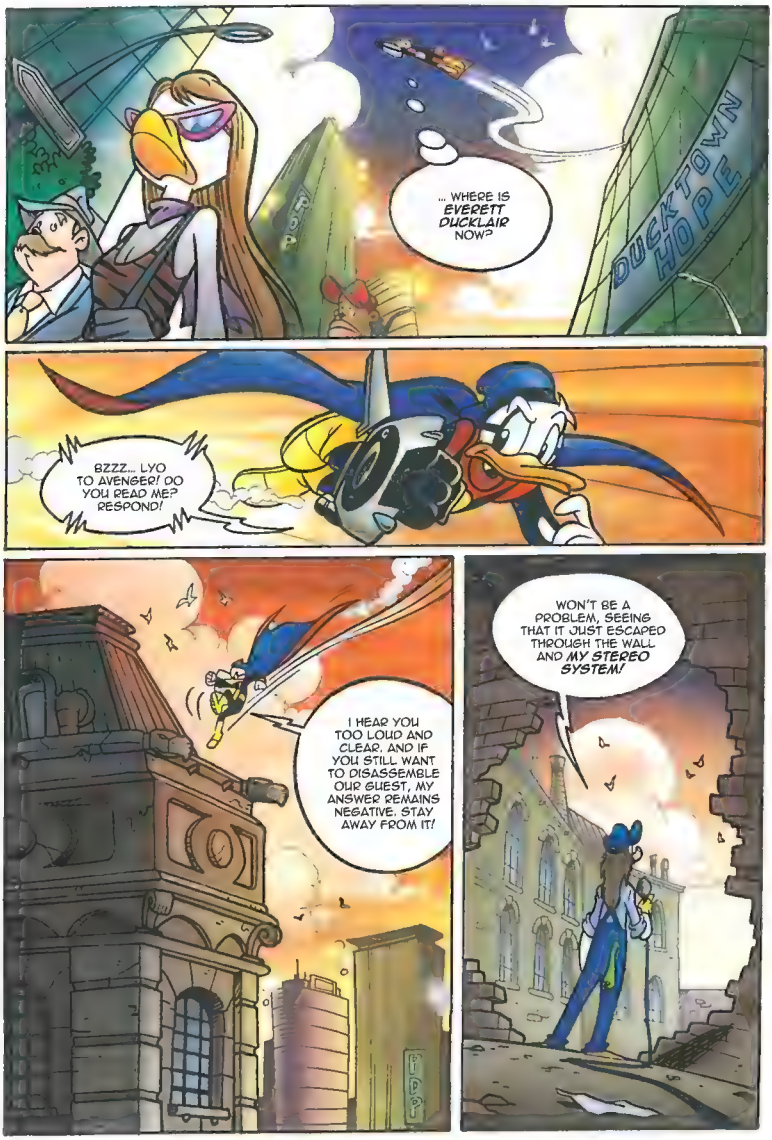
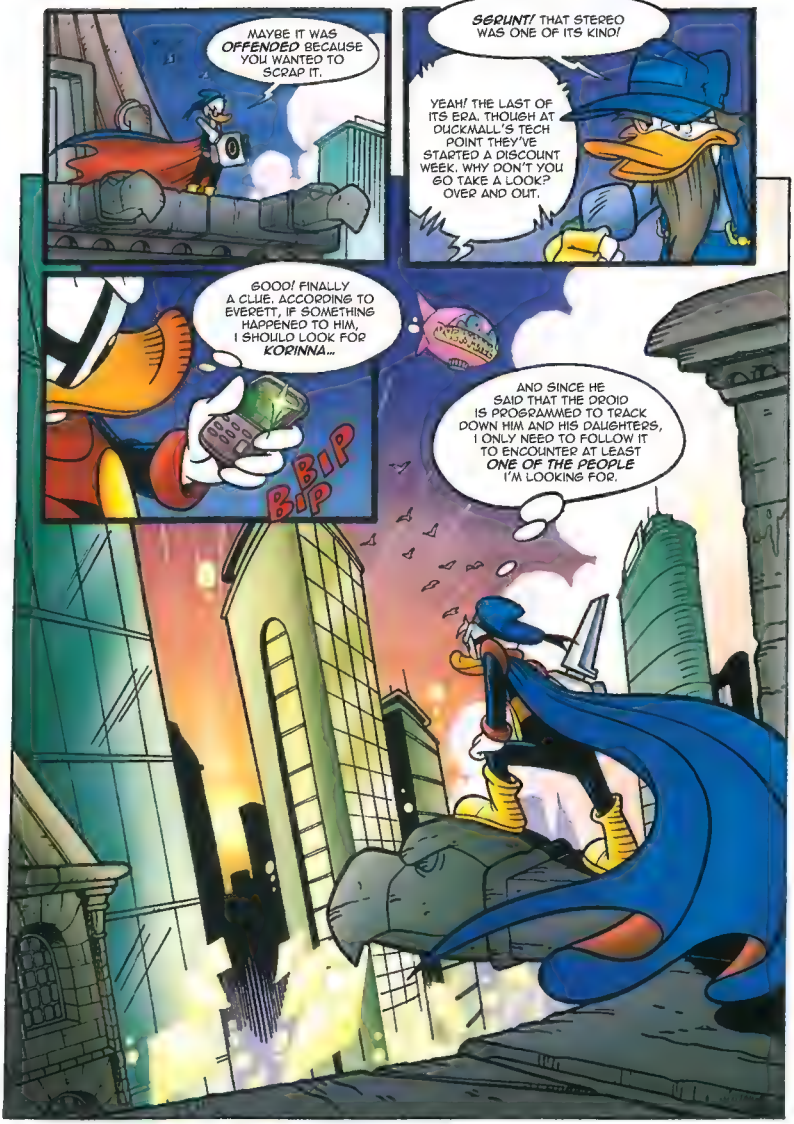

VERY GOOD. THE CONNECTION IS COMPLETE. CAN YOU SENSE THE PROBE?
"YES! I'M ACTIVATING IT NOW."

FLIGHT ED 23
PIANO DI VOL
FINGELBAUER

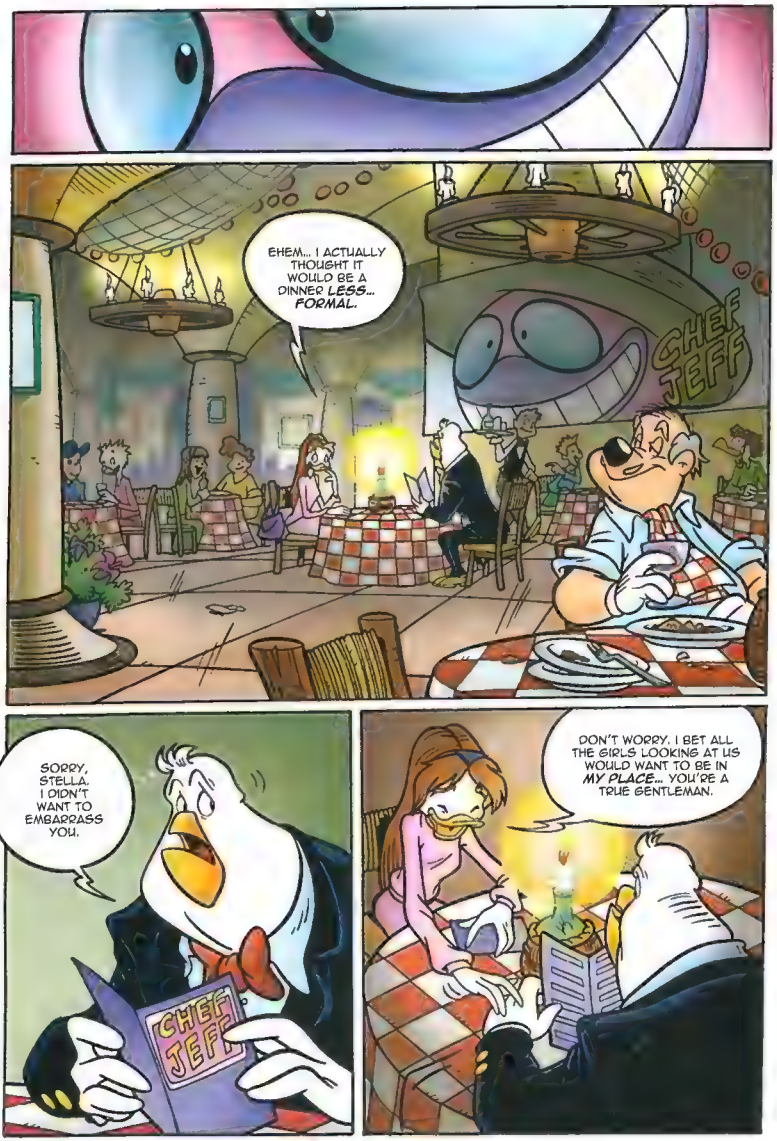

HMM... I'VE NEVER USED THE HOLOGRAPHIC PSYCHESENSOR IN AN INTERROGATION, BUT I MUST ADMIT THAT IT SAVES A LOT OF EFFORT.
FURTHERMORE IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO ASCERTAIN THE TRUTH, WHEN YOU'RE UP AGAINST TELEPATHS WHO MENTALLY CONDITION THEIR VICTIMS.
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND... IF THE PILOT ONLY IMAGINED THE ARRIVAL OF EVERETT AND THE FIRE WAS AN ILLUSION...


... WHERE IS EVERETT DUCKLAIR NOW?
DUCK'TOWN HOPE
BZZZ... LYO TO AVENGER! DO YOU READ ME? RESPOND!
I HEAR YOU TOO LOUD AND CLEAR. AND IF YOU STILL WANT TO DISASSEMBLE OUR GUEST, MY ANSWER REMAINS NEGATIVE. STAY AWAY FROM IT!
WON'T BE A PROBLEM, SEEING THAT IT JUST ESCAPED THROUGH THE WALL AND MY STEREO SYSTEM!


MAYBE IT WAS OFFENDED BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO SCRAP IT.
SGRUNT! THAT STEREO WAS ONE OF ITS KIND!
YEAH! THE LAST OF ITS ERA. THOUGH AT DUCKMALL'S TECH POINT THEY'VE STARTED A DISCOUNT WEEK. WHY DON'T YOU GO TAKE A LOOK? OVER AND OUT.
GOOD! FINALLY A CLUE. ACCORDING TO EVERETT, IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM, I SHOULD LOOK FOR KORINNA...
BIP BIP
AND SINCE HE SAID THAT THE DROID IS PROGRAMMED TO TRACK DOWN HIM AND HIS DAUGHTERS, I ONLY NEED TO FOLLOW IT TO ENCOUNTER AT LEAST ONE OF THE PEOPLE I'M LOOKING FOR.

"AND, IF I'M LUCKY, ALL THREE!"
HERE WE GO, DAD. KORINNA'S COMING.
VOOOSH
HELLO, DADDY. ARE YOU *HAPPY* TO SEE ME?
FROM YOUR EXPRESSION I WOULDN'T SAY SO. YET YOU'VE EASILY OBTAINED WHAT YOU DESIRED...

... A TRUE FAMILY REUNION!
SWISSS
SORRY IF I DON'T EMBRACE YOU PERSONALLY, BUT I'VE NEVER LIKED EXAGGERATED DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION.
IN THE END THAT'S WHAT MOM WAS TRYING TO TEACH US, WASN'T IT?
CHANGING TARGET PARAMETER... NEW OBJECTIVE EVERETT DUCKLAIR...
REGISTRATION OF PSY-WAVE LAYOUT OF HOSTILE PERFORMED...


EHEM... I ACTUALLY THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A DINNER *LESS... FORMAL*..
CHEF JEFF
SORRY, STELLA. I DIDN'T WANT TO EMBARRASS YOU.
CHEF JEFF
DON'T WORRY. I BET ALL THE GIRLS LOOKING AT US WOULD WANT TO BE IN *MY PLACE*... YOU'RE A TRUE GENTLEMAN.

WELL, THE FACT IS THAT I WANTED TO MAKE THIS EVENING UNBELIEVABLE BECAUSE...
IN SHORT I THINK IT'S THE RIGHT MOMENT TO...
EHEM... HERE!
Roger Lemmers
?
!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

BIP BIP
I WONDER IF IT'S A MISTAKE TO TRUST EVERETT AFTER I'VE DISCOVERED HIS TRUE IDENTITY. ESPECIALLY SINCE THERE ARE STILL MANY MYSTERIES TO CLARIFY.
THOUGH THE TRACER HE PROVIDED ME DOES WORK, THE DROID HAS ENTERED DUCKLAIR TOWER.
AND IF THERE'S BEEN NO RESTRUCTURING RECENTLY, I'D SAY IT'S IN THE NOTORIOUS LEVEL DELTA THAT EVERETT HAS ALWAYS TRIED TO KEEP ME AWAY FROM.
ALTITUDE -30 M
HMM... THIS WHOLE THING'S STARTING TO SMELL LIKE A TRAP, BUT... FOR WHO?

WELL, IT'S THE MOMENT OF TRUTH. IF THE SCOUTS HAVE AT LEAST BEEN DISABLED, I MIGHT START HAVING MORE TRUST IN THIS PLAN.
ULP! NEVER MIND!

RRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
POW
SKA-BRAVG

VOOOSH
JUNIPER, STOP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ALLOWING THE PROBE TO PERFORM ITS ORIGINAL PROGRAM: NEUTRALIZING YOUR POWERS.
AND THEN?
AWAITING YOU IS A LONG CRYOGENIC SLEEP!

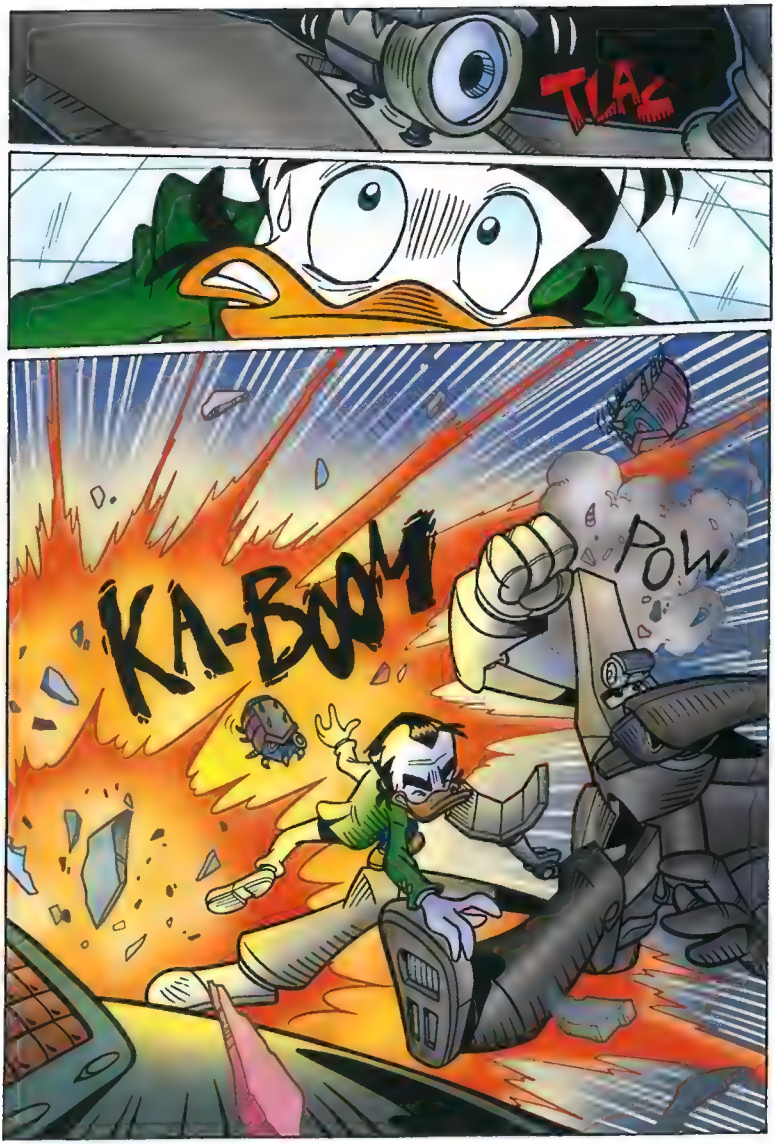
VOOOSH
URGH!
DON'T WORRY, YOU CAN AT LEAST CHOOSE...
WHICH CAPSULE DO YOU PREFER TO SPEND THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS IN?
TLAC
BUT MY SUDDEN DISAPPEARANCE WON'T GO UNNOTICED.
YOU'RE ALREADY GONE FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD!
THE SEARCH FOR THE BILLIONAIRE EVERETT DUCKLAIR CONTINUES FOLLOWING THE INCIDENT THIS MORNING...

... ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, NO TRACES HAS BEEN FOUND OF THE FINANCIAL MAGNATE IN THE PLANE WRECK...
DOESN'T IT SEEM IRONIC? YOU WERE SAVED WHEN OUR SPACESHIP CRASHED INTO THE SEA AND NOW YOU DISAPPEAR BECAUSE OF A SIMPLE AIRPLANE.
BUT... WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
CLUMP
FOR POWER!
WE WERE CHOSEN TO RULE A WORLD. OUR MOTHER WANTED TO TEACH US WHAT WE NEEDED TO PERFORM THE TASK WITH COLDNESS AND DETERMINATION...
BUT YOU, WITH YOUR DREAMS AND YOUR WEAKNESSES, TOOK AWAY OUR DESTINY. NOW IT'S TIME TO REMEDY IT!

IN A FEW DAYS, THE PRESS SECRETARY OF DUCKLAIR ENTERPRISES WILL MAKE YOUR DISAPPEARANCE OFFICIAL AND ANNOUNCE MY APPOINTMENT TO HEAD OF THE COMPANY AS YOUR HEIR.
DURING THE MONTHS AT YOUR SIDE I'VE LEARNED THAT THE INHABITANTS OF THIS WORLD ARE NAIVE AND OFTEN PETTY...
THEIR MINDS ARE EASY TO CONTROL!
THUS, THANKS TO YOUR FINANCIAL EMPIRE, WE'LL SOON TAKE CONTROL OF EARTH AND TRANSFORM IT INTO A NEW PLANET CORONA.
DON'T BE SAD, DAD. IN THE END YOU'VE GIVEN US A WORLD TO DOMINATE, AS WE WERE DESTINED TO!
SIGH! THEN YOUR MOTHER HAS REALLY WON.

RUPERT, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN HIDING?
DUCKMALL CENTER
DUCKMALL CENTER
STELLA NICE IS LOOKING FOR YOU ALL OVER THE MALL. SHE SAYS YOU RAN AWAY, LEAVING HER ALONE AT CHEF JEFF.
SHE ALSO TOLD US OF YOUR PRESENT. DID YOU WANT TO SHOW THAT, IF SHE REFUSED KISSING YOU, YOU'D TAKE IT.. SPORTINGLY? HA HA!
ACTUALLY THAT PRESENT WAS FOR YOU.
HUH?
EH?
WELL, SINCE YOU WERE SO UPSET TO HAVE LOST THE PHOTO OF BERNIE GILLIAMS, I WANTED TO GIVE YOU IN EXCHANGE MY BALL SIGNED BY ROGER LEMMENS.
I'M VERY FOND OF IT. I STAYED THREE HOURS IN FRONT OF THE STADIUM, TO GET THIS AUTOGRAPH...
Roger Lemmens

BUT I'D GLADLY GIVE IT UP, IF IT WOULD RECONCILE US.
YOU MEAN THAT, AFTER HAVING PREPARED THIS DATE WITH STELLA FOR WEEKS, YOU GAVE HER THE WRONG PACKET?
HA HA HA! YOU'RE TRULY CLUMSY, RUPERT!
DO YOURSELF A FAVOR, FITZROY. SHUT YOUR MOUTH!
ULP!
HERE! THIS PHOTO IS YOURS. STICK IT WITH BETTER TAPE NEXT TIME. THE CLEANER FOUND IT YESTERDAY UNDER YOUR LOCKER.
BUT... THEN YOU HAD IT!
EXACTLY. THIS MORNING I WAS HEADING TO THE LOCKER ROOM TO RETURN IT TO YOU, BUT YOU HAD ALREADY ACCUSED YOUR COLLEAGUES OF BEING CRIMINALS.
"SO I DECIDED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESITUATION TO BETTER STUDY THE CHARACTERS OF THOSE WHO WILL REPLACE ME WHEN I RETIRE."

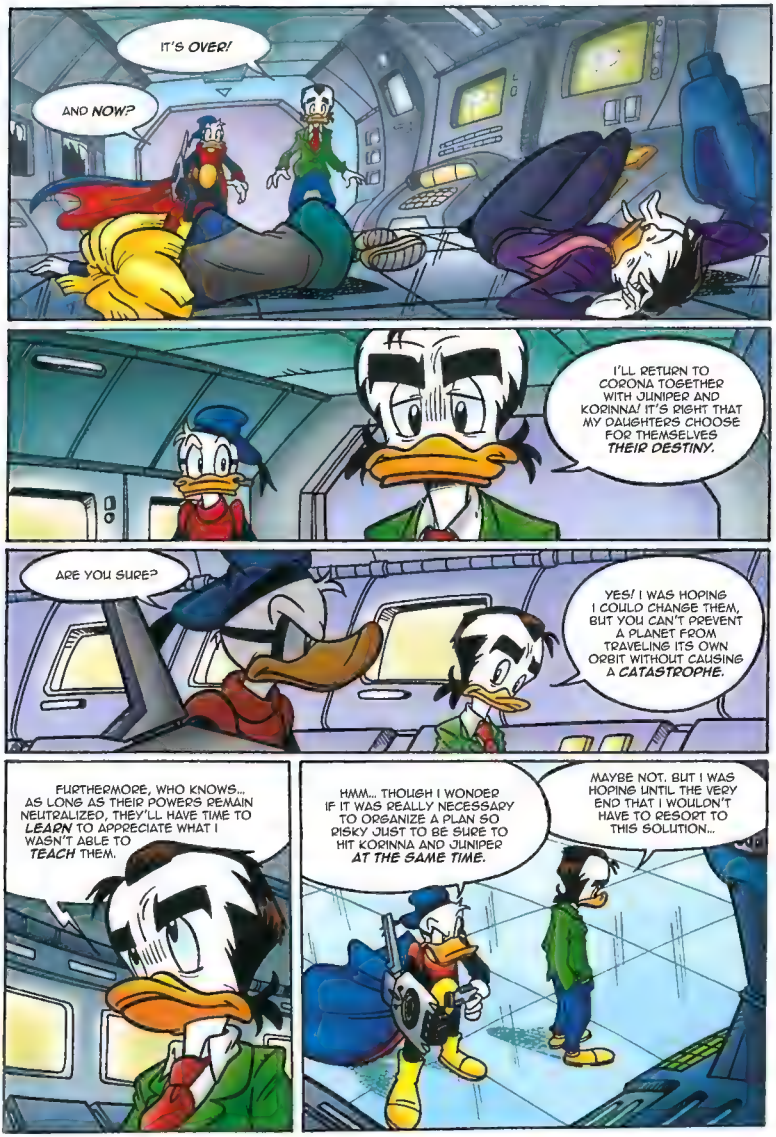

TLAC
KA-BOOM
POW

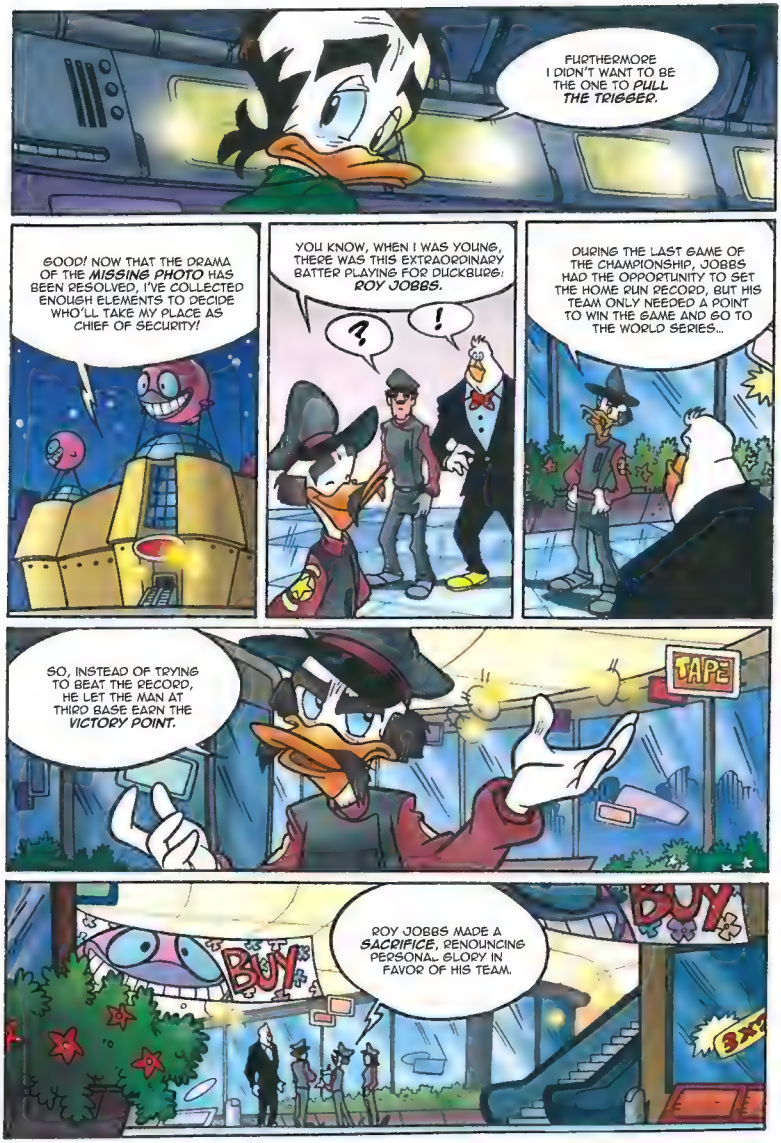
AVENGER?!
AVENGER?!
BY YOUR TONE, TWO OF YOU *AREN'T* HAPPY TO SEE ME!
ALTHOUGH DISABLING THE SECURITY SYSTEM WOULD HAVE BEEN A GOOD INSENSITIVE FOR ANTICIPATING MY ARRIVAL.
POW!
I'M SORRY. I COULDN'T RISK THAT, BY CONNECTING TO THE TELEPATHIC CONTROLS, MY DAUGHTER WOULD NOTICE AND BECOME SUSPICIOUS.
SUSPICIOUS? OF WHAT?

SET UP SCHEME OF INVERSE PHASE. FIRE!
DON'T GET DISTRACTED! HIT HIM NOW!
VRRR
HMM... WHAT DOES YOUR DAUGHTER HOPE TO ACHIEVE BY ATTACKING YOU WITH A HOLOGRAPHIC MESSAGE?
VRRR
HELLO, AVENGER. FORGIVE THE WAY IN WHICH MY DROID HAS CONTACTED YOU, BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO BE SURE TO GET YOUR ATTENTION.
I KNOW THAT, EVER SINCE I RETURNED TO DUCKBURG, OUR RELATIONSHIP HAS CONSTANTLY WORSENED. BUT I MUST ASK YOU TO STILL HAVE FAITH IN ME.

"THE THREAT THAT PROMPTED ME TO ABANDON DHASAM-BUL IS ABOUT TO MATERIALIZE..."
"... AND IT WILL INVOLVE ME PERSONALLY AND MY DAUGHTERS."
"BY NOW I'VE REALIZED THAT THEY'RE BOTH EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. I WAS HOPING TO BE ABLE TO CHANGE JUNIPER AT LEAST, BUT I WAS WRONG..."
AS THEIR POWERS BREW, THEIR MINDS WERE CLOSED TO ME. BUT I CLEARLY PERCEIVED THE THOUGHTS OF SOME PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CONDITIONED TO PLOT A CONSPIRACY AGAINST ME.
YOU KNEW? YOU ONLY PRETENDED TO FALL INTO THE TRAP.
UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT I HOPED THAT YOU WOULD HAVE LISTENED... AND FORGIVEN ME.
IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ME IN THE COMING DAYS, LOOK FOR KORINNA WITH THE HELP OF THIS DROID. IT'S PROGRAMMED TO TRACK DOWN ME AND MY DAUGHTERS.

FORGIVE YOU? AFTER YOU'VE TRICKED US AGAIN?
I'M JUST PROTECTING YOU FROM YOURSELVES.
IN THE ARM OF THE DROID YOU'LL FIND A DEVICE YOU CAN CONNECT TO THE X-TRANSFORMER SHIELD...
WE DON'T NEED YOUR HELP. WE NEVER HAD IT!
USE IT AGAINST KORINNA AND JUNIPER TO TEMPORARILY NEUTRALIZE THEIR POWERS...
"YOU MUST NOT FAIL. REMEMBER THAT YOU HAVE ONLY ONE SHOT AVAILABLE."
TLAC
VOOOSH


IT'S OVER!
AND NOW?
I'LL RETURN TO CORONA TOGETHER WITH JUNIPER AND KORINNA! IT'S RIGHT THAT MY DAUGHTERS CHOOSE FOR THEMSELVES THEIR DESTINY.
ARE YOU SURE?
YES! I WAS HOPING I COULD CHANGE THEM, BUT YOU CAN'T PREVENT A PLANET FROM TRAVELING ITS OWN ORBIT WITHOUT CAUSING A CATASTROPHE.
FURTHERMORE, WHO KNOWS... AS LONG AS THEIR POWERS REMAIN NEUTRALIZED, THEY'LL HAVE TIME TO LEARN TO APPRECIATE WHAT I WASN'T ABLE TO TEACH THEM.
HMM... THOUGH I WONDER IF IT WAS REALLY NECESSARY TO ORGANIZE A PLAN SO RISKY JUST TO BE SURE TO HIT KORINNA AND JUNIPER AT THE SAME TIME.
MAYBE NOT. BUT I WAS HOPING UNTIL THE VERY END THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE TO RESORT TO THIS SOLUTION...


FURTHERMORE I DIDN'T WANT TO BE THE ONE TO PULL THE TRIGGER.
GOOD! NOW THAT THE DRAMA OF THE MISSING PHOTO HAS BEEN RESOLVED, I'VE COLLECTED ENOUGH ELEMENTS TO DECIDE WHO'LL TAKE MY PLACE AS CHIEF OF SECURITY!
YOU KNOW, WHEN I WAS YOUNG, THERE WAS THIS EXTRAORDINARY BATTER PLAYING FOR DUCKBURG: ROY JOBBS.
?
!
DURING THE LAST GAME OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP, JOBBS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SET THE HOME RUN RECORD, BUT HIS TEAM ONLY NEEDED A POINT TO WIN THE GAME AND GO TO THE WORLD SERIES...
SO, INSTEAD OF TRYING TO BEAT THE RECORD, HE LET THE MAN AT THIRD BASE EARN THE VICTORY POINT.
TAPE
BUY
ROY JOBBS MADE A SACRIFICE, RENOUNCING PERSONAL GLORY IN FAVOR OF HIS TEAM.
BUY
3X2

I'VE NEVER FORGOTTEN THAT GESTURE. THAT DAY I LEARNED THAT TRUE COURAGE RESIDES IN SACRIFICE.
TO COMMAND YOU DON'T NEED TO BE STRONG, AUTHORITATIVE, SMART OR BOLD. YOU MUST STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT YOUR TEAM IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN PERSONAL INTERESTS...
... AND TO HOLD IT TOGETHER YOU SHOULDN'T HESITATE TO SACRIFICE SOMETHING YOU CARE ABOUT. MAYBE A BASEBALL BALL.
GOOD WORK, COMMANDER RUPERT POTOMAC!
!
CONGRATULATIONS, RUPERT!
HE HE!
HMPF!

AND NOW, MY BOY, DUTY CALLS YOU. THERE'S A GIRL STILL WAITING FOR HER PRESENT.
30%
EHEM... HERE'S THE RIGHT PACKET.
THAT IS... I WAS WONDERING IF YOU... AND I...
OH, RUPERT! YES!
HA HA HA!
PUSH

... UNFORTUNATELY THERE'S NO NEWS ON THE FATE OF THE BILLIONAIRE EVERETT DUCKLAIR WHO'S STILL LOST AT SEA.
NEWS
HMPF! YOU THINK YOU'RE SO CLEVER, MR. DUCKLAIR?
EVEN IF YOU FOUND AN EXCUSE TO HIDE AND SECRETLY CONTINUE YOUR SHADY BUSINESS, I WILL ALWAYS BE BEHIND YOU...
"... WHEREVER YOU GO!"
STARTING TAKEOFF PROCEDURE. ACTIVATING HOLOGRAPHIC COVER PROJECTORS!

I'LL MISS EVERETT! MAYBE THIS REALLY IS THE END...
SIX
FINE